

Funahashi fails to disclose a sensor switch that detects the recesses and the projections at a fixed position, as recited in claim 1.

Contrary to the Office Action assertion, the alleged sensor switch of Funahashi (i.e., locking levers 111₁, 111₂) does not correspond to Applicants' sensor switch as recited in claim 1. In Funahashi, the locking levers 111₁, 111₂ are mechanical levers that prevent the rotation of the carrier 107 so as to prevent the planetary gear 106 from rotating around the sun gear 105 (col. 7, lines 17-20). As clearly shown in Figs. 3-10 of Funahashi, the locking levers 111₁, 111₂ are not a sensor switch that detects the recesses and the projections at a fixed position.

Instead, the locking levers 111₁, 111₂ of Funahashi are used to prevent the rotation of the carrier 107. As Funahashi describes, the carrier 107 is prevented from rotating clockwise because the locking lever 111₂ is in engagement with the locking projection 110₂ (col. 10, lines 43-45). Thus, the planetary gear 106 remains at the same position shown in Fig. 5 and it rotates on its axis counterclockwise, accepting the rotation of the motor 102 (col. 10, lines 45-48). As Funahashi further describes, the switching of the locking levers 111₁, 111₂ is performed before the carrier 107 starts to rotate (col. 10, lines 54-56). Because the locking levers 111₁, 111₂ are used to prevent the carrier 107 from rotating, the locking levers 111₁, 111₂ of Funahashi do not structurally correspond to a sensor switch that detects the recesses and the projections at a fixed position as recited in claim 1.

Thus, Funahashi does not disclose each and every feature as recited in claim 1 and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is inappropriate. Further, for the reasons discussed Funahashi does not suggest claim 1. Because Funahashi does not disclose or suggest the features as recited in claim 1, Funahashi cannot anticipate the subject matter of claim 5, which depends from claim 1, for the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1 as well as for the additional features recited therein. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,764,372 to Kondo in view of Funahashi. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kondo fails to overcome the deficiencies of Funahashi as applied to claim 6 for at least the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1. For example, the alleged combination of Kondo and Funahashi fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a sensor switch that detects the recesses and the projections at a fixed position; and wherein the communication apparatus includes at least a transmission mode and a reception mode in association with the transmission gears, as recited in claim 6.

As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Funahashi does not disclose or suggest a sensor switch that detects the recesses and the projections at a fixed position. Also, as the Office Action recognizes, Kondo fails to teach the specifics of the gears and its inter-workings as recited in claim 6. Kondo also fails to disclose or suggest a sensor switch that detects the recesses and the projections at a fixed position, as recited in claim 6.

Accordingly, neither of the applied references individually or in permissible combination disclose or suggest the features as recited in claim 6. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/sxb

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: November 17, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
--